

**REMARKS**

Even though Applicant does not acquiesce in the rejection of claims 1, 3 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by (lacking novelty over) Meier '909, Applicant cancels these claims in order to obtain an early allowance of the application.

On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that claims 2, 4-8 and 10-12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant has so rewritten these claims, whereby Applicant now respectfully requests the Examiner to find the application to be in condition for allowance with all of claims 2, 4-8 and 10-12; however, if for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney to discuss any unresolved issues and to expedite the disposition of the application.

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this application, and any required fee for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. The Commissioner is also authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and/or § 1.17 necessary to keep this application pending in the Patent and Trademark Office or credit any overpayment to said Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
U.S. APPLN. NO. 10/549,813

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: April 16, 2008